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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/817,477	03/26/2001	Steven R. Galipeau	101944-300	1614

22930 7590 02/10/2005

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FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042-2924

EXAMINER

LAMBRECHT, CHRISTOPHER M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/817,477	GALPEAU ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Christopher M Lambrecht	2611	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/27/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,666,291 to Scott et al. (hereinafter "Scott") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,554,049 to Reynolds (hereinafter "Reynolds") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,291,829 to Ivory et al. (hereinafter "Ivory").

With regard to claim 25, Scott discloses a passenger outlet interface (interface box 7, fig. 3, col. 4, ll. 19-24) for use by an airline passenger (see abstract) comprising: means for providing power to said passenger (col. 5, ll. 40-45) via a cable (1A, fig. 3), when said power is available (power is inherently provided only when it is available); means (23D, fig. 3) for the transmission of low speed data to said passenger via said cable (1A, col. 6, l. 65 – col. 7, l. 1); and means for the transmission of high speed data (where video data constitutes high speed data) to said passenger via said cable (1A, col. 6, ll. 42-48). Scott fails to disclose said interface comprises an enable light to indicate whether power is available to said passenger; said means for providing power comprises first and second plugs, third and fourth plugs for enabling the provisioning of power; said means for providing low speed data comprises fifth, sixth, and seventh plugs; and, said means for providing high speed data comprises eighth and ninth plugs, in cooperation with said seventh plug.

In an analogous art, Reynolds discloses an interface comprising an enable light (30, fig. 1a) to indicate whether power is available to a user (col. 4, l. 59 – col. 5, l. 3), for the purpose of apprising the user of the current power status of the connection (col. 5, ll. 1-3).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the interface of Scott to include an enable light to indicate whether power is available, as taught by Reynolds, for the purpose of apprising the user of whether power is available at from the interface. Scott and Reynolds fail to disclose said means for providing power comprises first and second plugs, third and fourth plugs for enabling the provisioning of power; said means for providing low speed data comprises fifth, sixth, and seventh plugs; and, said means for providing high speed data comprises eighth and ninth plugs, in cooperation with said seventh plug.

Official notice is taken of the fact that it is well known in the art to provide first and second plugs (in association with first and second conductors of a cable, i.e., power and ground, respectively) in the provisioning of electric power, for the purpose of forming a complete circuit between two apparatus such that electric current, and consequently power, may be transferred.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the means for providing power of Scott and Reynolds to include said first and second plugs, for the purpose enabling power to be provided between the interface and the passenger device. Scott and Reynolds fail to disclose third and fourth plugs for enabling the provisioning of power; said means for providing low speed data comprises fifth, sixth, and seventh plugs; and, said means for providing high speed data comprises eighth and ninth plugs, in cooperation with said seventh plug.

In an analogous art, Avory discloses an interface (41, fig. 2a) and associated cable (49, fig. 2a, 2b) comprising a connection for enabling the provisioning of power (ENABLE, from cable 49, fig. 3, col. 4, ll. 30-40), for the purpose of increasing the safety of the device (col. 4, ll. 49-52). Additionally, though Avory depicts only a single enable line sharing a ground line with power lines in the cable, Official notice is taken of the fact that it is well known in the art to provide two signal lines (and plugs, in association with two conductors of a cable, i.e., signal and ground) where a signal is to be transmitted over said cable, for the purpose of providing increased isolation between a power lines and signal lines.

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the interface of Scott and Reynolds to include a connection for enabling the provisioning of power, as taught by Avory, for the purpose of increasing the safety of the device; and, furthermore modifying the connection of Scott, Reynolds, and Avory to comprise third and fourth plugs for the purpose of providing increased isolation between a power lines and signal lines. Scott, Reynolds, and Avory fail to disclose said means for providing low speed data comprises fifth, sixth, and seventh plugs; and, said means for providing high speed data comprises eighth and ninth plugs, in cooperation with said seventh plug.

Official notice is taken of the fact that it is well known in the art for serial data interfaces (such as serial I/O 23D of Scott, fig. 3) to comprise at least three pins (plugs), namely, a data transmit pin, a data receive pin, and a ground pin, for the purpose of enabling full-duplex (i.e., simultaneous transmit and receive) communication capability.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify said means for providing low speed data of Scott, Reynolds, and Avory to include fifth, sixth, and seventh plugs, for the purpose of enabling full-duplex (i.e., simultaneous transmit and receive) communication capability. Scott, Reynolds, and Avory fail to disclose said means for providing high speed data comprises eighth and ninth plugs, in cooperation with said seventh plug.

Official notice is taken of the fact that it is well known in the art for high speed data lines to comprise two data conductors (a "twisted pair") providing balanced signal transmission associated with a third ground conductor, for the purpose of providing improved overall signal quality over a given distance. Additionally, Official notice is taken of the fact that it is well known in the art for multiple data lines disposed in a single cable to share a common ground line in that cable, for the purpose of minimizing the number of conductors to be included within the cable, and consequently reducing costs.

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As such, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Scott, Reynolds, and Avory to modify said means for providing high-speed data to include eighth and ninth plugs, in cooperation with said seventh plug, for the purpose of providing improved overall signal quality over a given distance and minimizing the number of conductors to be included within the cable, and consequently reducing costs.

As for claim 26, Scott, Reynolds, and Avory together disclose the passenger outlet interface of claim 25 wherein said first and second plugs comprise a power and a ground (see rejection of claim 25) for providing said passenger with from 11 volts dc to 16 volts dc (12 volts dc, Scott, col. 4, ll. 49-50).

As for claim 27, Scott, Reynolds, and Avory together disclose the passenger outlet interface of claim 25 (see above) wherein said fifth, sixth, and seventh plugs are coupled to a serial I/O. However, they fail to disclose said serial I/O is an RS-232 port.

Official notice is taken of the fact that RS-232 is a well-known standard in the art defining serial communications, and is so ubiquitous that its use provides the benefit of compatibility with a vast number of computing devices available to consumers.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the serial I/O of Scott, Reynolds, and Avory to include an RS-232 port, for the purpose of enabling compatibility between said interface outlet and many publicly available computing devices.

3. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scott, Reynolds, and Avory as applied to claim 25 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,832,300 to Lowthert (hereinafter "Lowthert").

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With regard to claim 25, Scott, Reynolds, and Avory together disclose the passenger outlet of claim 25 wherein said seventh, eighth, and ninth plugs provide high-speed video data. However, they fail to disclose the high-speed video data lines are coupled to a universal serial bus.

In an analogous art, Lowthert discloses high-speed video data provided over a Universal Serial Bus (USB), for the purpose of providing a desired video quality level (col. 4, ll. 31-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the seventh, eighth, and ninth plugs of Scott, Reynolds, and Avory to include a universal serial bus, as taught by Lowthert, for the purpose of providing high-speed video data at an acceptable quality level.

As for claim 29, Scott, Reynolds, Avory, and Lowthert together disclose a cable (1A, fig. 3, col. 5, ll. 40-45) forming an interface between said passenger's personal computer (media player 1, fig. 3) and said passenger outlet interface (7, fig. 3) of claim 28 (see above).

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### ***Conclusion***

4. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

### **Certificate of Mailing**

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Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.



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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher M Lambrecht whose telephone number is (703) 305-8710. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on (703) 305-4755. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher M Lambrecht  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2611

CML

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "HAITRAN", is written over three horizontal lines. The signature is slanted upwards from left to right.

**HAITRAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**